

## Family Circle.

ALMOST THERE.

"I am almost there,"  
Said a dying child,  
As he upward looked  
And sweetly smiled:  
"The happy homes  
Of the best I see,  
And an angel hand  
Awaiting me."

"I am almost there!  
But do not weep,  
In a Saviour's arms  
It is sweet to sleep."  
And he closed his eyes,  
And gently placed  
His folded hands  
Across his breast.

"I am almost there!  
Sweet Jesus, now!"  
And the damps of death  
O'erspread his brow;  
And his brightening features  
Almost smiled.  
As we wept beside  
The dying child.

—Congregationalist.

## Remarkable Conversion.

The following remarkable statement is authorized by M. Adigard and M. de Pressense: A regiment of French soldiers, on their march to the Crimea, halted for some days at Toulon, in the south of France. While there a coopteur came among them. A young soldier, preëeding to be much moved by the good man's exhortations, asked for a Bible, which was, of course, given to him. The soldier and his companions roared with laughter, telling the coopteur that it was all a joke; but the soldier refused to return the book, saying, "It would do to light his pipe with." The coopteur replied, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"

Fifteen months afterward the same coopteur stopped for a night at an inn more than three hundred miles from Toulon. The landlady was in great distress, having just lost her son, of whom she spoke in terms of the most tender affection. He conversed with her for a few moments, when she withdrew, but soon returned, bringing a little book, which her deceased son had left to her as his precious legacy.

It was much mutilated, many pages of the cover, written in large letters, was the following inscription: "Received at Toulon, on the —, 1855. Despaired at first, and badly used; but afterward read, believed, and made the instrument of my salvation. J. L., fusilier of the fourth company of the —— regiment of the line."

From the condition of the little volume, it was plain that the young soldier had made use of the missing leaves to light his pipe, as he had boasted he should. But, as he had related to his mother, this work of destruction was stopped on the evening before the battle, in which his regiment was to occupy the perilous post of the advance guard. He stated that at this juncture serious thoughts came into his mind, in a very strange manner, and all of a sudden the words of the man whom he had tricked out of the book came to his recollection like a thunder-clap, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!" "And if I should fall into his hands?" This thought haunted him, he said, without intermission, the whole of the night; and, in consequence, as soon as it became light in the morning, he took from his knapsack the book which appeared to have become his accuser. The verses which he had read in the dim gray light of the morning had been brought home to his heart by the Holy Spirit. In the battle which ensued he was severely wounded. Old things had passed away, and he now realized the truth of the faithful saying, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life."

After removing from one hospital to another, he was brought back to his home about six weeks before the visit of the coopteur. The mutilated Testament was scarcely ever out of his hand during waking moments. It was the only one he ever possessed; perhaps the only one in his native village. His mouth was full of tender entreaties that his dear mother and friends might embrace Christ and his salvation. To his very last breath he ceased not to exhort them all to accept God's offered mercy in Jesus, and not to run the risk of falling in an unconverted state into the hands of the living God."

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